

**Robert Stewart to George Washington, April 6, 1761,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT STEWART.

WINCHESTER 6th April 1761 —

MY DEAR COLO

I have just had the great pleasure of receiving your agreeable Favour of the 27th Ult^o. and am glad that there is some prospect of the Regiment's being supplied with these necessaries —

Capt McKenzie to the great Joy of the Corps has just rejoin'd us, by him we learn that Colo Byrd is appointed to Command the Expedition against the Cherokees,¹ and that a Demand of a thousd. more Men is made upon Virga if complied with, it will cause several changes in our Military Affairs and as no doubt but Colo. Byrd will have a Staff, a hint from you in my favr. might [be] of great Service to me, I do not mean as to B Majr. as Paddy² will have that, and I not envy it, but as the Gross of his Army will consist of raw Troops an Adjutant Genl. or an Officer to do that Duty will become the more necessary, and tho' the Colony will make no Provision for anything [of the] kind yet as all Contingencies are to be paid by the Crown the Officer Commanding in Chief could without any inconveniency make that matter easy — I have given the Colo. a distant hint — he has been very kind by applying unask'd to Genl. Amherst for my remaining with him and succeeded —

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There is vast uneasiness and heart burnings amongst our Officers on accot. of a Report (which gains Credit) that Capt. Van Braham³ is to have Rank as oldest Capt. in the Regiment notwithstanding that no Vacancy has been kept for him and that no mention was made of him, much less any exception made in his favour in any one of the many Promotions that were made since he left the Corps (if it can with propriety be call'd the same Corps) some of the Officers seem determin'd to leave no Stone unturn'd to retain their present Rank and its' too probable the consequences of his coming will prove fatal to some. I am vastly hurried & must beg you'll forgive the inaccuracy &Ca. of the above I ever am Wt. the most perfect Deference & regard

My Dear Colo. Your Most Affecte. & mo: Obliged Servt. ROBERT STEWART.

N.B. I would not have anything said abt. V Brams. affairs till it comes from Colo. Byrd who will be applied to on the Subject

1 The Cherokees at this time had become very aggressive. In May, 1760, the Virginia Assembly appropriated £32,000 for the fitting out of an expedition against them; and in the following October passed an act withdrawing the Virginia forces from the north, and concentrating the strength of the entire regiment upon this troublesome and powerful nation.

2 Major Andrew Lewis.

3 Jacob Vanbraam.